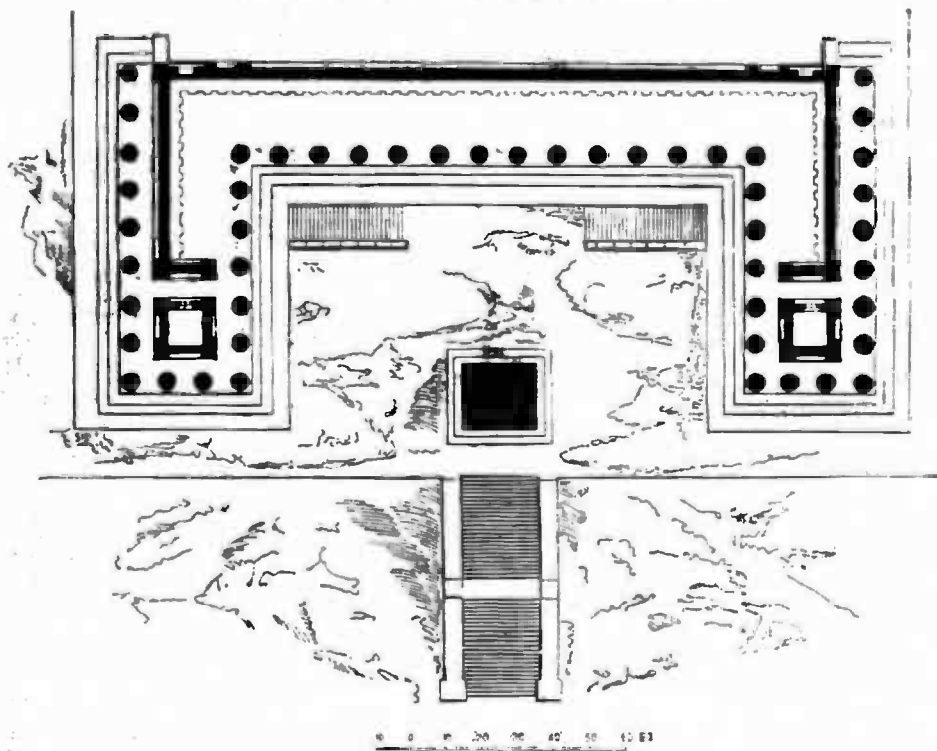


PLAN OF THE "RUHMESHALLE," MUNICH.



THE BUILDING IN HYDE PARK.

ABOUT 900 men are at work, and very considerable progress has been made in the erection of the skeleton of the building. The overmuch trumpeting, however, on the part of the newspapers generally,—the daily statements somewhat in this style,—“We stop the press to announce the erection of two more columns and a girder,”—compared with what they usually say of works involving much more science and art, render accounts on our part unnecessary. We sincerely hope it may not throw the contractors off their guard by inducing too great confidence. There are several parts which will require their utmost attention, if they would avoid a disaster; and as to rapidity, with the present strength, moving at present rate, the building cannot possibly be completed by the time named.

The foundations for the pillars (in some cases much slighter than we should like to trust to), are formed in this way:—The ground having been marked out for a line of columns, pits are sunk on the site which each is to occupy. In general the depth of the pit is about three feet, the length two feet and a half, and the width one and a half. This space is then filled with concrete. Great nicety is observed in fixing the level of the surface of the concrete, which determines the height at which the column stands. The columns, having been previously subjected to the test of a hydraulic press, are placed upon trucks and drawn to the spot where they are to be erected, and where a foundation has previously been prepared for them. A “gin,” or temporary crane formed of three spars meeting at the top, is erected over these spots to support the heavy chain tackle by which the pillars are hoisted. The trucks being brought near these large cranes, all that is necessary is to insert two small temporary pins of iron into holes, which have been formed at the upper end of each casting, round which a short chain is slung, and passed over the hook of the tackle. The fall of the tackle is brought through a “snatch-block” or pulley fixed to the feet of two of the spars of the “gin,” and is then led off to the splinter-bar of a team of horses. The horses have only to move forward through a short space, and the pillar is hoisted above the place it is intended to occupy.

The machine constructed by the contractors, for the purpose of forming the wooden gutters

intended to be placed on the roof to convey the water, turns out of hand in about five minutes as much work as would occupy a man the whole day at least. The necessity of such an arrangement will be seen from the fact, that 24 miles of gutter will be required for the roof. The timber for the gutters is sawn into pieces of 24 feet in length, 6 inches in depth, and five inches in thickness. Three of these pieces are placed together firmly on the frame of a planing mill, where they are planed and squared. In this state one of the pieces is placed on a stand provided with rollers, with one end inserted in the iron frame of the grooving machine, where it is brought into contact with three grooving chisels. The centre one forms on the under surface of the wood a circular groove of three inches in depth and about the same in width, while the two others, one on each side, cutting in an oblique direction, form grooves of about half-an-inch in width and one in depth. The machine is worked by an engine of 20-horse power, and forms about five feet of the gutter per minute. It is not on the ground.

Two hundred glassiers have commenced operations. The glass used is brought to the ground cut of the size required, and we are told that each man can glass 64 feet daily.

The smiths employed on the building struck a few days ago, for an advance of wages from 4s. to 5s. per day. Fresh hands were taken on.

ARRANGEMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS.

We have received a letter from the Hon. Secretary of the Bristol Society of Architects, in reply to remarks on the propositions submitted by them. The writer says,—“Our propositions were framed to meet local requirements, and they were made public, in default of any others, as an incentive to competing members of the profession to consider the subject for themselves.

“Our proposition, No. 3, that ‘the successful competitor should be required to find respectable and responsible contractors to complete the different works for the sum specified in his estimate, and in default thereof to relinquish all claim to remuneration,’ has been much objected to by many individuals, but it was felt to be necessary as a protection and guarantee to our employers. In important cases, where a public exhibition has been made

of the designs, and also when professional advisers have assisted in the decision upon designs, the cost of the building has vastly exceeded the estimated amounts; as witness the cases of the Houses of Parliament, the Small-pox Hospital, the Middlesex Lunatic Asylum; Colney Hatch, and numberless others. I believe that nothing less than some such responsibility as is defined in our proposition can be effective in checking the erroneous competition-guesses at cost, which now take the place of scientific knowledge and calculation.

I do not suppose that any competitor would consider the question unsettled as to his design being chosen or not, after professional judgment and advice had been resorted to by any committee, and another design had been selected. But as our profession has no diplomas of competency in either science or art, it appears incumbent upon country practitioners at least to offer what guarantee they can that their employers should not be grievously misled, as they so frequently are. Many opinions may be advanced in opposition to our proposal; but I have heard no argument conclusive against it. We and all junior members of the profession of architecture have now to thank the Architectural Association for their well-considered regulations. Our Bristol Society have modified ours by them, but for local purposes we retain the publication of the names of competitors on their drawings. The credit attached to a design is, for years, often the only recompense to a young architect.”

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

A CHAPEL has been recently erected at Rempston, near Loughborough, by the Wesleyans. It is in the Gothic style: Messrs. Broadbent and Hawley, of Leicester, builders. —Tenders have been lodged for the erection of two lodges in the Arboretum, at Nottingham, designed by Mr. H. M. Wood, the corporation architect and surveyor. The highest amounted to 468l. 10s., and the lowest to 394l. 19s.: Messrs. East and Hill's tender, amount 398l., was accepted.—The foundation stone of a new church was laid at Amcotts, parish of Althorp, on Tuesday in last week. The style is to be early Gothic with lancet windows, and the cost 1,200l. to 1,500l. exclusive of parsonage-house. The church will accommodate 274 persons. It is to be erected